

Appl. No. 10/796,452
Reply to Office action of July 26, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 6 are hereby amended. Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The amendments of claims 1 and 6, reciting "a steering torque detection unit substantially provided within a predetermined space defined between the magnetic shield section and the yoke portions", is supported, for example, by subject matter of claim 3 and Figure 3. The amendments of claims 1 and 6, reciting "a magnetic shield section ... for suppressing the effect of an external magnetic field", is supported by page 7, lines 22-23 and page 8, line 23 to page 9, line 5.

Claims 1-6 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nonomura (US 4,803,885) in view of either Yagi (US 4,817,444) or Sezaki (US 6,484,592). The combination of Nonomura and either Yagi or Sezaki does not teach or suggest a torque sensor including a steering torque detection unit substantially provided within a predetermined space defined between the magnetic shield section and the yoke portions, as required by claim 1. The steering torque detecting unit detects the steering torque applied to the steering shaft when the steering torque that occurs by the operation of the steering wheel is applied to the steering shaft. Further, as a result of the predetermined distance between the magnetic shield section and the yoke portion, it is possible to sufficiently weaken the effect exerted on the steering torque detecting unit by an external magnetic field (see page 10, lines 5-12).

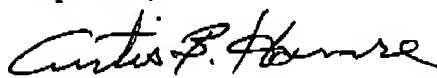
The Examiner contends the coil supporting portion (44) disclosed by Nonomura is equivalent to the claimed yoke, and that the sleeve (46) is equivalent to the claimed magnetic shield. In contrast to the current invention, Nonomura teaches a coil supporting portion (44) and sleeve (46) that are in direct contact with each other.

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Neither Yagi nor Sezaki remedy the deficiencies of Nonomura. Therefore the claimed torque sensor should be considered unobvious over that taught by the cited references. Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1-6 are requested.

In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165, at (612)455-3802.

Respectfully Submitted,



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